

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-23 and 29-38 are presently pending in the application. Claims 13-23, 29 and 30 are allowed. Claims 5 and 24-28 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3 and 29 have been amended. New claims 31-38 are presented for consideration. The specification and drawings stand as filed.

Reconsideration of the objections and rejections set forth in the aforementioned Office Action is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. The basis for the amendments can be found throughout the Specification, Claims and Drawings as originally filed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 10-12 and 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ring et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,794,739) in view of Dunkelow (U.S. Pat. No. 2,837,192). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of objected to Claim 5 (now cancelled) and is now believed to be allowable. Accordingly, Claim 1 and its dependent Claims 2-4 and 6-12 are all in condition for allowance.

In addition, Claims 26-28 have been cancelled such that the § 103 rejection is no longer applicable to these specific claims.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 13-23, 29 and 30.

Claims 3-5 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As such, new Claim 31 is objected to Claim 3 written in independent form to include all limitations of the base claim. Likewise, new Claim 35 is objected to Claim 4 written in independent form to include all limitation of the base claim. Thus, these new independent claims and their respective dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

All of the grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding office action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If it is believed that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1240. Prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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